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SUBJECT Morton Halperin on Stansfield Turner

BOB EDWARDS: CIA Director Stansfield Turner has increased his responsibility and power, taking over two intelligence agencies that had belonged to the Pentagon. Foreign affairs analyst Morton Halperin has some Pentagon experience, and more than a nodding relationship or knowledge of the intelligence community.

Mort, is Stansfield Turner now an intelligence czar, or what?

MORTON HALPERIN: No, I don't think so. In fact, I think he's a big loser in this, although some reports have tried to paint him as getting increased authority. What Turner went after in fact was operational control of the two intelligence agencies which dominate the budgets of the intelligence community and do most of the gathering. And that's the National Security Agency, which intercepts communications and tries to listen to them and to break codes, and the National Reconnaissance Office which is emerging from the deep secrecy that it's been under until very recently, and which is the organization that flies the satellites that take the pictures and which produces most of the important intelligence we get about the Soviet Union and about China.

The two together comprise probably 80% of the intelligence budget, and what Turner wanted was to actually run those agencies, to appoint their directors, to have them work for him, and to make them part of a joint intelligence community that he would control. He failed to get that, and what he got really was a sop, which is some increased authority over their budgets as they're reported to the President, but basically the operational control of the agencies and the day-to-day decision-

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